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Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 AID-20 CCO-00 NEA-10 NIC-01 OC-06

OMB-01 OS-03 CU-04 OPR-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 SCCT-02 SY-10

USSS-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 DRC-01 EB-11 COME-00 FAA-00 MC-02

/160 W

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O 281547Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7822
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASH DC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2277

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT ET
SUBJECT: ADDIS SIT REP II

REFS: ADDIS 2229, 2264, 2265, USDAO IR 6-830-0039-74;
USDAO 00117 DTG 281530 FEB 74

1. AT THIS WRITING (1615 HOURS LOCAL), ADDIS IS TENSE BUT QUIET. THERE IS STILL A NOTABLE ABSENCE OF VIOLENCE HERE AND, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO BLOOD HAS BEEN SHED.

2. EMBASSY URGING AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO REMAIN AT HOME TONIGHT AND TOMORROW. WE HAVE RECOMMENDED TO AMERICAN SCHOOLS THAT THEY REMAIN CLOSED TOMORROW AND REOPEN, BARRING FURTHER NOTICE, ON

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MONDAY. ALL BUT KEY OFFICIAL PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN SENT HOME ON

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SAME TERMS.

3. DISSIDENT SOLDIERS HAVE QUIETLY TAKEN CONTROL OF KEY POINTS IN CITY, INCLUDING RAILWAY STATION, AIRPORTS, COMMERCIAL BANK, ETC. ROADBLOCKS ARE UP, NOTABLY ON JIMMA AND DEBRE ZEIT ROADS, AND CARS ARE BEING SEARCHED TO PREVENT CERTAIN PEOPLE FROM LEAVING TOWN. DISSIDENTS APPEARED AT BOLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THIS MORNING AND INFORMED ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES MANAGEMENT THAT THEY WISHED TO CONTROL MANIFESTS OF ALL INCOMING AND OUTGOING AIRCRAFT. THEY SAID THAT THEY WISHED TO MAKE SURE UNSPECIFIED ETHIOPIANS DO NOT LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THEY WERE THERE TO MAINTAIN NORMALCY. THEY REPORTEDLY REQUESTED CESSATION OF "LIGHT AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY." A LEAFLET BEING DISTRIBUTED BY DISSIDENT TROOPS URGES EVERYONE BE OFF THE STREET BY 8PM LOCAL.

4. SOME ARMORED CARS, PRESUMABLY 4TH DIVISION AND BELIEVED "DISSIDENT", HAVE BEEN SEEN IN CITY. TANKS FROM NAZARETH HAVE REPORTEDLY MOVED NORTH (IN DIRECTION OF CAPITAL). LEAFLETS HAVE BEEN SCATTERED FROM A HELICOPTER. THEY ARE STILL BEING TRANSLATED BUT APPEAR TO PLEDGE DISSIDENTS' CONTINUING LOYALTY TO EMPEROR AND DESIRE FOR PROGRESS, MODERNIZATION, ETC.; STATE WISH TO AVOID FRATRICIDAL VIOLENCE; AND PLEAD FOR UNDERSTANDING OF PUBLIC FOR PAY DEMANDS. IEAF T-33 OVERFLYING TOWN, ALLEGEDLY AS SIGNAL OF AIR FORCE SUPPORT FOR DISSIDENT TROOPS.

5. WE ARE GETTING INITIAL INDICATIONS THAT SUPPORT WITHIN MILITARY FOR DISSIDENTS CONTINUING TO WIDEN RAPIDLY. IT APPEARS BODYGUARD MAY BE IN PROCESS JOINING MOVEMENT, AND HIGHER RANKING OFFICERS ARE BECOMING MORE CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH DISSIDENTS. WE ARE ALSO BEGINNING TO HEAR EXPRESSIONS OF RESENTMENT OVER EMPEROR'S "UNILATERAL APPOINTMENT" OF LIJ ENDALKACHEW MAKONNEN AS
THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER.

6. REPORTS REACHING US FROM PROVINCES ARE FRAGMENTARY. SHOPS ARE SAID TO REMAIN CLOSED IN DEBRE ZEIT TODAY; TOWN IS BUTTONED UP AND PATROLLED BY DISSIDENT TROOPS. HARRAR IS QUIET AND SO IS DIRE DAWA, ALTHOUGH WE AGAIN HEAR THAT AIRFIELD MAY BE IN DISSIDENT HANDS.

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7. WE ALSO HEAR OF ALLEGED MOVEMENTS AND INCURSIONS ALONG BORDER WITH NORTHERN SOMALIA SOUTH OF FTAI. WE ARE TRYING TO CHECK THESE OUT. MAAG ADVISERS WERE SUMMONED BY ASST. MINISTER MULATO IN MOD TODAY AND "SENT HOME" FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY. THIS EVIDENTLY REDUCES STILL FURTHER OUR CAPACITY FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN MOD.

8. WHEN DISSIDENTS SEIZED ADDIS LIDETA (OLD) AIRPORT THIS

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MORNING, THEY ALLOWED MAAG PERSONNEL REMOVE VEHICLES BUT KEPT U-21, SAYING IT WOULD AGAIN BECOME AVAILABLE TO MAAG TOMORROW. SUBSEQUENT REPRESENTATIONS TO THEM BY MAAG OFFS ACCOMPANIED BY ETHIOPIAN LIAISON OFFICER RESULTED IN LATTER'S DETENTION. MAAG SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED, HOWEVER, THAT AIRCRAFT AGAIN AVAILABLE TO IT "AT ANY TIME" AND LIAISON OFFICER RELEASED AS APPARENT CONVERT TO DISSIDENT CAUSE. WE HAVE EYE-WITNESS REPORT OF ARREST "MINFIN" MAMMO TADESSE BY TROOPS AND UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF ARRESTS SEVERAL OTHER AKLILU CABINET MINISTERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, VISITS, MUTINY, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ADDIS02277
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974024/aaaaaddm.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ADDIS 2229, 2264, 2265, USDAO IR 6-8, 30-0039-74;
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDIS SIT REP II
TAGS: PINS, PINT, OTRA, ET, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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